

WATERCOLOR

IN YOUR CLASSROOM

Toothbrush Technique

Dip a toothbrush into some watercolor paint. Then dab onto the paper to give a rough texture.

Spritz Technique

Add some watercolor to an old hairspray bottle with spritz top. Spritz the color onto the page around a stationary object (leaf, rock, another paper, etc).

Watercolor over Crayon

Create a drawing with crayon and then take a paintbrush, dip it in water and go over the crayon lines.

Watercolor Wash

Dip paint brush into water and then into watercolor. This will thin out the paint so that a wash can be created on the paper.

LESSON PLAN IDEAS FOR USING WATERCOLOR IN YOUR CLASSROOM

Science:

Study animals in their natural habitats. Create their habitat using at least two of the techniques listed above. For instance, the hard shell of the sea turtle can be created using the toothbrush technique. The ocean can be create with the watercolor wash. Describe the differences in texture and how they blend or do not blend into the environment.

Language Arts:

Writing using texture and descriptive imagery is difficult. Make it a little more concrete by having students imagine what their story will be about. Then they can paint it using the watercolor techniques above. Then, have them write the story while describing what each character or background looks and feels like. The writing is much deeper and meaningful using this technique.

Math:

Have students make their own “custom color” by mixing paint colors and using water to lighten or deepen the shade. When the students mix their colors, they must record the ratios of paint to water they are using so that they can know their “secret formula”. Students can then create a 4x4 square of their custom color and the secret formula is written on the back. Create a class quilt of custom color squares and review the formulas and ratios on the back.



Watercolors are a versatile and fun way to engage your students within the classroom. Make sure that you take precautions such as smocks, plenty of paper towels, and instructions before doing these activities to avoid accidents! Have fun!